

**National Park Service  
Roosevelt-Vanderbilt National Historic Sites  
Family Programs – 2007**

**Programs begin at the Henry A. Wallace Visitor and Education  
Center located at the Home Of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site  
unless noted otherwise.**

**The Italian Garden Tour at the Vanderbilt Mansion**

This Ranger led tour examines the history of the Vanderbilt Gardens, from their creation by Walter Langdon Jr, through the end of the Vanderbilt ownership of the estate. The program focuses on the improvements and modifications to the gardens and the greenhouse structures during this time span. Suggested clothing and equipment: Walking shoes, sunscreen, bug spray. Walking will be on lawn and gravel paths. Meet at the Vanderbilt Visitor Center.

Dates and times: June 30<sup>th</sup> (2:00 PM) and July 8<sup>th</sup> (2:00PM). One hour.

**Eleanor's Woodland Walk and Nature Study**

Join us in an exploration of the wild side of Val-Kill! Participants have the opportunity to walk along the woodland trails that Eleanor Roosevelt enjoyed and look for wild life she wrote about in her "My Day" newspaper column. The program includes learning the basics of creating a nature guidebook using bark rubbings, leaf tracings, identification of animal tracks and the sounds of the woods. Suggested clothing and equipment – long pants, hiking shoes or boots, a hat, bug spray and sun lotion. Meet at the Val-Kill Visitor Center Bookstore . Ages 5 and up. Dates and Times: July 5<sup>th</sup> (2:00 PM), August 15 (11:00AM). One hour.

**That Magical Place called Val-Kill - A Historic Grounds Tour**

"The peace of it is divine," Eleanor Roosevelt wrote of the place she named Val-Kill. This Ranger led tour focuses on the grounds of the property and why this "magical place" was so special to Mrs. Roosevelt. Suggested clothing and equipment: Long pants, comfortable shoes, hat, bug spray and sun block. Ages 10 and up. Meet at the Val-Kill Visitor Center/Bookstore. July 20<sup>th</sup> (11:00 AM) and August 3<sup>rd</sup> (11:00AM). One hour.

### **Eleanor loved to Knit; Learn to Knit like Eleanor**

Knitting was always part of Eleanor Roosevelt's public persona. Whether she was traveling, or listening to an important presentation by a representative at the United Nations, Mrs. Roosevelt was seen knitting. The program teaches children to make their own knitting needles and the basic stitches to knit a simple product. Pictures of Eleanor knitting artifacts will be used as inspiration. A children's tour of the Eleanor's home is included. Ages 5 up. Meet at the Val Kill Visitors Center/Bookstore. July 7<sup>th</sup> (11:00AM). One hour.

### **Eleanor Everywhere!**

Eleanor Roosevelt seemed to be everywhere! This activity allows children to learn about some of the counties Mrs. Roosevelt visited – what she saw, what they wore, what they ate and what she brought back as gifts. A story from one of the countries will be read. Countries may include – India, Israel, Russia, Saudi Arabia, China or Japan. Ages 4 to 8. Meet at the Val-Kill Visitors Center/Bookstore. Dates and Times: July 15<sup>th</sup> (11:00AM), August 5<sup>th</sup> (11:00AM) and August 16<sup>th</sup> (11:00AM). One hour.

### **Kill In Dutch Means Stream, So Who Lives In The Fall Kill?**

Eleanor and Franklin Roosevelt would love to picnic along the Fall Kill stream. It was such a beautiful place that Eleanor wanted to build a retreat there. Join a park ranger to take a fun and scientific look at the Fall Kill streams ecosystem and its inhabitants'. Suggested clothing and equipment – long pants, hiking boots, a hat, bug spray and sun screen. Dates and Times: July 27<sup>th</sup> (11:00AM) and August 19<sup>th</sup> (11:00AM) Ages 5 and up. Meet at the Val-Kill Visitor Center/Bookstore. One hour.

### **Franklin Roosevelt, A Farmer In My Native Town**

Franklin Delano Roosevelt was one of the most influential people in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. FDR, in spite of all his political titles, choose to use the one occupational title that gave him the most satisfaction, that of farmer. To FDR, this meant tree farmer. Join us for a power point presentation and talk on this fascinating subject on July 1<sup>st</sup> (2:00PM) at the Wallace Center, located at the FDR National Historic Site. One half hour.

### **Roosevelt's Farm; Its Plantations, History and Land Stewardship**

Join a park ranger led tour of some of the lands under FDR's Stewardship. This tour program examines some of the principles that FDR applied to his land. The presentation includes a historical talk on the expansion of the farm from 110 acres to close to 1,600 acres and a visit to one of his plantations. Suggested clothing and equipment: long pants, hiking shoes, hat, water, bug spray and sun lotion. The program begins at the parking lot off Rt. 9, just north of the Hyde Park Brewing Company, look for the green gate. Times and Dates: July 6<sup>th</sup> (11:00AM) and July 22<sup>nd</sup> (2:00PM). One hour.

### **Walking in the Foot Steps of Nelson Brown – FDR's Forester**

Nelson Brown was a professor and forester from the College of Forestry (now Environmental Sciences and Forestry). FDR realized the importance of having his lands under proper forest management (Sustainable Forestry) and commissioned Professor Brown to develop a management plan and implement forestry practices. Children and adults alike will enjoy this park ranger led introductory tour to an FDR tree plantation and participate in forestry techniques, data collection, and forestry principals. Suggested clothing and equipment: Long pants, hiking shoes, hat, water, bug spray and sun lotion. Meet at the parking lot off Rt.9, just north of the Hyde Park Brewing Company, look for the green gate. Time and Dates: July 20<sup>th</sup> (2:00PM), August 11<sup>th</sup> (11:00AM), and August 31<sup>st</sup> (11:00AM). One hour.

### **The Roosevelt Farm Lane Hike, an Adventure in Time**

Hike along the old roads that FDR used to access his forest plantations, and Val-Kill. Easy walking on rough dirt-surfaced woods roads with gently rolling hills. There are some rocky areas. Suggested clothing and equipment – long pants, hiking boots, a hat, snack, water, bug spray, and sun lotion. Parking is off Rt. 9, just north of the Hyde Park Steakhouse Brewing Company, look for the green gate. 3.6 mile round trip. Dates and Times: July 13<sup>th</sup> (2:00PM), August 2<sup>nd</sup> (11:00AM), August 23<sup>rd</sup> (2:00PM) and September 1<sup>st</sup> (2:00PM). Two and half hours. This hike is one of the Hyde Park Healthy Trails Walkabout Areas for 2007.

### **Hike the Vanderbilt Loop!**

This moderate hike takes place at the Vanderbilt National Historic Site and features walking on park roads, through forest, up some steep hills and magnificent views of the Hudson River. Suggested clothing and equipment – long pants, hiking boots, a hat, snack, water, bug spray and sun block. Meet in the parking lot opposite the Vanderbilt Visitor Center. It is 2.8 mile long, round trip. Dates and Times: July 28<sup>th</sup> (2:00PM). Two hours. This hike is one of the Hyde Park Healthy Trails Walkabout Areas for 2007.

### **The Val-Kill Loop Hike**

This easy hike takes place at Val-Kill, the home of Eleanor Roosevelt. Enjoy one of Mrs. Roosevelt's favorite walks. Suggested clothing and equipment - long pants, hiking boots, a hat, water, bug spray and sun block. We will meet at the Val-Kill Visitor Center/Bookstore. It is a one mile loop. Dates and times: July 19<sup>th</sup> (11:00PM), August 3<sup>rd</sup> (2:00PM), and August 29<sup>th</sup> (11:00AM). One hour. This hike is one of the Hyde Park Healthy Trails Walkabout for 2007.

### **Be a Reading Ranger: Stories At Roosevelt Education Center (REC):**

Stories will be read about the Roosevelt animals and pets, farming and the lifestyle of people of the Roosevelt era. Dates and times: July 1<sup>st</sup> (11:00AM), July 14<sup>th</sup> (2:00PM), August 4<sup>th</sup> (11:00AM), August 9<sup>th</sup> (2:00PM), August 18<sup>th</sup> (2:00PM), August 24<sup>th</sup> (11:00AM).

### **19<sup>th</sup> Century Games:**

Experience games that FDR and his friends may have played during the 1890's. Ages 4 and up. Long pants and sneakers are recommended. Dates and times: July 12<sup>th</sup> (2:00PM), July 25<sup>th</sup> (11:00AM), August 8<sup>th</sup> (11:00AM), August 25<sup>th</sup> (11:00AM), August 31<sup>st</sup> (2:00PM).

### **The President's Marigolds (Puppet Program):**

Meet President Roosevelt (as hand puppet) who shares stories of his love of plants and animals. Children will tour the Roosevelt Greenhouse and stables and receive a marigold grown in the greenhouse to take home. Date and time: July 11<sup>th</sup> (11:00AM).

### **FDR's Boyhood Tour:**

An hour filled with fun and activities! Tour the estate and learn about young Franklin Delano Roosevelt, the future President. Dates and Times: July 4<sup>th</sup> (2:00PM), July 26<sup>th</sup> (11:00AM), August 8<sup>th</sup> (2:00PM), August 25<sup>th</sup> (2:00PM).

### **FDR's Fine Feathered Friends- A Puppet Show:**

Learn about FDR's love of the outdoors and conservation. Half hour puppet show. Dates and Times: July 27<sup>th</sup> (2:00PM), August 10<sup>th</sup> (11:00AM).

### **Out of the House and Into the Woods:**

Take a hike into the woods that FDR loved. Featured areas: the ice pond, Meriches Kill Creek and Roosevelt Cove. Suggested clothing and equipment- long pants, hiking boots, a hat, snack, water, bug spray, and sun lotion. The hike is 1.75 miles long and is steep in sections. Dates and Times: July 25<sup>th</sup> (2:00PM), August 9<sup>th</sup> (11:00AM). This hike is one of the Hyde Park Healthy Trails Walkabout Areas for 2007.

### **Herbivores, Carnivores, Omnivores, Oh My! :**

Learn about wildlife in the park first hand. Discover the mystery beneath by pelt, and by studying various skeletons of some of our major natural inhabitants. The program includes a woods walk to discover signs of the creatures of the forest. Suggested clothing and equipment: long pants, hiking shoes, hat, snack water, bug spray and sun lotion. Length of program is 1 hour. Dates and Times: June 30<sup>th</sup> (11:00AM), July 18<sup>th</sup> (2:00PM), August 1<sup>st</sup> (11:00AM), August 22<sup>nd</sup> (2:00PM).

### **FDR's Excellent Streamside Adventure:**

Join a park ranger for an exploratory trip to the Meriches Kill Creek for an in depth scientific and fun look at this ecosystem during this hour and a half program. Suggested clothing and equipment- long pants, hiking boots, a hat, snack, water, bug spray and sun lotion. Dates and Times: July 7<sup>th</sup> (2:00PM), July 14<sup>th</sup> (11:00AM), August 11<sup>th</sup> (2:00PM), August 23<sup>rd</sup> (2:00PM), August 30<sup>th</sup> (2:00PM).

### **It's a Good Day for a Hike From Val-Kill to Top Cottage:**

Be one of the first to experience a hike through the woods from Eleanor Roosevelt's retreat to FDR's retreat. The trail is steep in some areas. Suggested clothing and equipment- long pants, hiking, a hat, snack, water, bug spray and sun lotion. Meet at the Val-Kill Visitor Center/Bookstore. Dates and Times: August 4<sup>th</sup> (2:00PM), August 30<sup>th</sup> (11:00AM).

### **Vanderbilt Landscape Walking Tour:**

Take a walking tour of the historic landscape at the Vanderbilt Historic Site. The tour is 45 minutes beginning at the Vanderbilt Visitor Center and concluding at the Italian Gardens. Suggested clothing and equipment: Walking shoes, sun lotion, and bug spray. Walking will be on lawn and gravel paths. Meet at the Vanderbilt Visitor Center. Dates and Times: July 15<sup>th</sup> (2:00PM), July 29<sup>th</sup> (2:00PM), August 12<sup>th</sup> (2:00PM).

### **Roosevelt's Dairy, from Grass to Butter:**

Did you know the Roosevelt estate was a working dairy farm with Alderney cows? Join a park ranger and learn about farming. Milk our (artificial) cow and make some butter. Help us name our new cow! Dates and times: July 5<sup>th</sup> (11:00AM), July 13<sup>th</sup> (11:00AM), August 1<sup>st</sup> (2:00PM), August 22<sup>nd</sup> (11:00AM).

### **For The Love of Springwood- A Historic Site Grounds Tour:**

Join a park ranger to look at some of the “nooks and crannies” on the estate where FDR was born and raised. Explore the areas that were special to him. Suggested clothing and equipment: long pants, hiking shoes, a hat, bug spray and sun block. Dates and Times: July 11<sup>th</sup> (2:00PM), July 21<sup>st</sup> (11:00AM), August 10<sup>th</sup> (2:00PM), August 26<sup>th</sup> (2:00PM), September 1<sup>st</sup> (11:00AM).

### **19<sup>th</sup> Century Laundry- Doing Laundry The Old Fashioned Way:**

Join a park ranger as she demonstrates the difficulties of getting your clothing clean before the days of permanent press, water softeners, fortified laundry detergent and automatic washers and dryers. Be prepared help wash some dirty laundry. Dates and times: August 19<sup>th</sup> (9:00AM to 1:00PM)

### **To Preserve and To Protect, a Day in the Life of a Curatorial Ranger:**

Meet the enemy of our national treasures- sunlight, dust and humidity. Join a curatorial ranger to learn about techniques used to preserve our cultural heritage. Meet at the Vanderbilt Visitor Center. Dates and Times: July 26<sup>th</sup> (2:00PM), August 16<sup>th</sup> (2:00PM).

### **A Kaleidoscope View of a National Park Service Resource Protection Ranger:**

Keeping our national treasures and their visitors safe is the number one concern of a park service protection ranger. Learn about the evolution of law enforcement in the National Park System and about the challenges that lay in the future since 9/11/2001. Dates and Times: July 8<sup>th</sup> (11:00AM).

### **Be a Reading Ranger, Eleanor's Favorite Kipling Stories at Val-Kill Doll House:**

Eleanor Roosevelt loved reading Kipling stories to her grandchildren and other young guests at Val-Kill. Bring your lawn chairs and enjoy some stories in the tradition of Eleanor Roosevelt under the shade trees at the Val-Kill Doll house. Meet at the Val-Kill Visitor Center/Bookstore. Dates and Times: July 12<sup>th</sup> (11:00AM), August 29<sup>th</sup> (2:00PM).

### **FDR as a Photographer:**

Photography was one of FDR's many hobbies. See how FDR viewed and captured his world through the lens of his camera. Photographs' from boyhood to his honeymoon include pictures he took of people, architecture, dogs, family and estates. The program is one hour in length at the Wallace Center. Dates and Times: August 15<sup>th</sup> (2:00PM).

### **Vanderbilt Hired Help:**

Learn how the Vanderbilt's 19<sup>th</sup> century household staff cared for the mansion, and how the National Park Service cares for the mansion today. Explore the "Upstairs/Downstairs" World of the Vanderbilt Mansion. Meet at the Vanderbilt Visitor Center. Date and Times: August 18<sup>th</sup> (11:00AM)

### **Pressing Engagements: Apples to Cider at the FDR Farm:**

Join an Education Park Ranger for a talk about the FDR farm. Apples were an important crop, and were consumed out of hand, as sauce, butter, pies and cider. Apple pressing and cider making are part of this fun presentation. Ages 4 and up. An Adult must accompany children. This program is 45 minutes long. Dates and Times: July 19<sup>th</sup> (2:00PM), August 2<sup>nd</sup> (2:00PM).



**Flower Power! FDR's Love of Flowers, a Puppet Show:**

Join an educational Park Ranger for a puppet show which includes a visit from FDR himself (a hand puppet), and Sunny the flower. Children learn about the parts of a flower, and tour the 1907 Roosevelt greenhouse. Ages 3 and up. An adult must accompany children. This program is 45 minutes long. Dates and Times: July 6<sup>th</sup> (2:00PM), July 21<sup>st</sup> (2:00PM), August 24<sup>th</sup> (2:00PM).

**What is the Big Mystery?:**

Join an educational Park Ranger to discover the secrets held in the mystery bags. Growing up at FDR's home, "Springwood," Franklin developed a great love of the land, including farming. This program includes solving the mystery in each bag in order to build a "picture" of whom and what was on the farm. A walking tour takes place after the mysteries are solved. Ages 5 and up. An adult must accompany children. This program is 45 minutes. Dates and Times: July 18<sup>th</sup> (11:00AM), July 28<sup>th</sup> (11:00AM).